

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-11. (Canceled)

12. (Currently Amended) A method for fixing a ligament graft into a bone tunnel, the method comprising:

making a graft insertion tunnel in a tibia and in a femur and making a helical screw thread in each of the tunnels;

preparing a ligament graft having a plurality of poles to an appropriate dimension and forming a multiple strands closed loop;

slipping at least one relay tension strip through each of the poles of the graft;

passing one of the relay strips through the tunnel in the tibia and another of the relay strips through the tunnel in the femur and pulling the graft along behind the relay strips; and

introducing a screw according to claim 1 between two strands of each relay strip and immobilizing each one of the relay strips by pressing the screw against a respective one of the helical screw threads in each of the tunnels made in a bone.

the screw comprising:

a cylindrical proximal part with a length of between 0 and 10 mm;

a conically tapered intermediate part; and

a blunted screw thread with a long pitch formed on both the cylindrical proximal part and the tapered intermediate part;

wherein the tapered intermediate part has a cross section that tapers towards a plain cylindrical distal part with a rounded and blunt end, a diameter of the cylindrical distal part is at least equal to a diameter of a bone tunnel.

13. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 12, wherein the method of preparing the ligament graft comprises:

excising a ligament from the semitendinosus to obtain the graft;
attaching two ends of the graft to one another to form a closed loop;
twisting the closed loop on itself into a figure-of-eight shape; and
folding the shape onto itself to obtain a four-strand closed loop comprising a single suture.

14. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 12, wherein prior to the insertion of the graft through the bone tunnels, the relay strips are fixed to pulling posts of a stretcher, the stretcher having a spring calibrated to exert continuous tension of about 40 daN.

15. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 12, further comprising preparing a bone housing in the tibia and in the femur for receiving each one of an end of the graft, each bone housing being calibrated according to the previously measured diameter of each graft's end.

16. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 15, wherein the femoral or the tibial housing is produced using an auger equipped with a cutter, the auger being introduced via a femoral or tibial tunnel from outside towards the articular cavity and creating a small intra-osseous groove when guided in the femoral or tibial tunnel before reaching an actual site of an articular cavity, where the auger can then turn freely and create a housing into the bone by moving forwards or backwards.

17. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 12, wherein the method of making the helical screw thread in the femur or in the tibia comprises introducing a tap into the femur or the tibia from outside inwards through a short incision in a skin, the tap direction being dictated by a guide pin introduced into the femoral tunnel.

18-21. (Canceled)

22. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 12, wherein the method of preparing the ligament graft comprises:

excising a ligament from the semitendinosus to obtain the graft;

winding the ligament around two pivot markers separated from one another by a distance equal to the final dimension of the graft; and

providing one or more ligatures at each end of the graft.